

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1908

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T USBERLIN 0149

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, GW, UR

SUBJECT: SPANGENBERG-FALIN CONVERSATION ON BERLIN

SUMMARY: FRG BERLIN PLENIPOTENTIARY SPANGENBERG GAVE ALLIED
MINISTERS JANUARY 26 ACCOUNT OF LUNCHEON CONVERSATION
HE RECENTLY HAD WITH SSR AMBASSADOR TO BONN FALIN,
PRIVATE EXCEPT FOR PRESENCE ONE SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIAL.
FOLLOWING ARE KEY POINTS SPANGENBERG TOUCHED ON:

1. FALIN IS TOTALLY IDENTIFIED WITH DETENTE POLICY, BOTH
OFFICIALLY AND PERSONALLY, AND KNOWS THAT IF IT GOES
DOWN HE GOES DOWN. HE DISPLAYS OVERRIDING CONCERN OVER
WHAT HE SAYS ARE REVIVING COLD WAR ATTITUDES IN FRG.

2. THERE IS GREAT DUALISM ON GERMANY-BERLIN MATTERS
BETWEEN FALIN IN BONN AND ABRASIMOV IN EAST BERLIN, WITH
APPARENTLY LITTLE OR NO CROSS-COMMUNICATION. FALIN
SAID ABRASIMOV WOULD BE MOVING AFTER NEXT PARTY
CONGRESS, EITHER TO HIGHER PARTY DUTIES OR ELSEWHERE.
SPANGENBERG THINKS ONE POSSIBILITY IS FOR HIM TO COME TO

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BONN AS AMBASSADOR.

3. FALIN COMPLAINED THAT ALLIES AND FRG ARE DOING BAD THINGS IN BERLIN, CREATING TENSIONS, ETC. BUT SEEMED RATHER ILL-INFORMED ON WHAT IS ACTUALLY GOING ON IN BERLIN, ALSO ON WHAT QA ALLOWS OR DOESN'T ALLOW, CLAIMING FOR EXAMPLE THAT QA EXPRESSLY CALLS FOR SENAT INVITATION TO PRIVATE AFFAIRS SUCH AS ICE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS. SPANGENBERG SAID HE EXPLAINED THIS ONE CAREFULLY, AND THAT FALIN SEEMED GENUINELY SURPRISED AT EXPLANATION OF NON-RELEVANCE OF QA.

4. HE ALSO COMPLAINED THAT NO ONE IN BONN WILL CONSULT OR TALK TO HIM ABOUT BERLIN MATTERS. SPANGENBERG SAID HE TOLD FALIN THAT TALKING TO HIM FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSE PRESENTS NO PROBLEMS BUT THAT CONSULTATION IS OUT OF QUESTION. HE SAID FALIN UNDERSTOOD THE DISTINCTION.

5. FALIN MENTIONED WITH DISAPPROVAL WHAT HE TERMED PROVOCATIVE COLD-WAR TYPE STATEMENTS BY GENSCHER, LEBER, AND SCHUETZ. HE SAID IT WAS NOT SO MUCH THAT THEY AS IMPORTANT BUT NEVERTHELESS SUBORDINATE FIGURES MADE SUCH STATEMENTS AS THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT BY HIS SILENCE SEEMED TO CONDONE SUCH BEHAVIOR OR AT LEAST CAST DOUBT ON FRG TRUE ATTACHMENT TO DETENTE.

6. FALIN SAID HE THOUGHT LOW-KEY VISIT TO FRG BY BREZHNEV WOULD BE GOOD IDEA. SPANGENBERG SAID HE TOLD HIM THERE SHOULD BE NO VISIT UNLESS AND UNTIL THREE PENDING FRG-USSR AGREEMENTS, CURRENTLY HUNG UP ON BERLIN CLAUSES, HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT.

7. FALIN SEEMED TO KNOW NOTHING OF RECENT FLAP OVER ALLIED BK/O ON REICHSBAHN CONSTRUCTION WORK IN WEST BERLIN, BUT WHEN SPANGENBERG EXPLAINED, FALIN SAID IT WAS OBVIOUS ALLIES WOULD NEED PUT OUT SOME SUCH ORDER, SINCE THIS WAS WITHIN THEIR AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY.

8. SPANGENBERG SAID HE ASKED FALIN WHETHER THERE WAS
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ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS FOR KALININGRAD NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT WITH DIRECT LINE TO FRG THROUGH WEST BERLIN

AND FALIN SAID HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT. SPANGENBERG VOLUNTEERED COMMENT TO MINISTERS THAT THIS PROJECT IS TOTALLY DEAD, BECAUSE OF POLISH-GDR OBJECTIONS, AND SAID NO SORT OF BRANCH LINE SUBSTITUTE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE ACCEPTED. HE HIMSELF THINKS BEST LONG-TERM

POWER SOLUTION IS NUCLEAR PLANT IN BERLIN AND HOPES
ALLIES WILL NOT ONLY APPROVE BUT BUILD SUCH A PLANT.GEORGE

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NNN

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